

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND CLAIMS

**Call to Order:** Chair Llew Jones, on April 7, 2017 at 8:00 AM, in Room 317 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Sen. Llew Jones, Chair (R)  
Sen. Frederick (Eric) Moore, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Duane Ankney (R)  
Sen. Mary Caferro (D)  
Sen. Terry Gauthier (R)  
Sen. David Howard (R)  
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)  
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)  
Sen. Mike Lang (R)  
Sen. Mary McNally (D)  
Sen. Albert Olszewski (R)  
Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R)  
Sen. Mike Phillips (D)  
Sen. Jon C. Sesso (D)  
Sen. Cary Smith (R)  
Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn (R)  
Sen. Lea Whitford (D)  
Sen. Cynthia Wolken (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Prudence Gildroy, Committee Secretary  
Julie Johnson, Legislative Branch  
Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 228, 4/5/2017; HB 473, 4/6/2017; HB 618, 4/6/2017; HB 652, 4/3/2017; HB 591, 4/3/2017; SB 370, 4/3/2017;

**HEARING ON HB 228**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:10 Rep. Jim Keane (D), HD 73, opened the hearing on HB 228, Provide funding for sage grouse stewardship.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:01:44 John Tubbs, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
00:01:57 Dave Galt, Montana Petroleum Association  
00:02:13 Glenn Marks, Montana Association of Land Trusts  
00:02:24 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association  
00:02:37 Chelcie Cargill, Montana Farm Bureau Federation  
00:02:52 Jon Metropoulos, Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:03:35 Rep. Keane

**HEARING ON HB 473**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:04:12 Rep. Frank Garner (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB 473, Revise highway revenue laws.

00:06:57 Chair Jones left the meeting and Minority Vice Chair Caferro assumed the duties of Chair.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:14:15 Darryl James, executive director, Montana Infrastructure Coalition (MTIN)  
**EXHIBIT(fcs73a01)**

00:19:33 Sen. Jones joined the meeting and assumed the duties of Chair.

00:21:25 Webb Brown, chair, Montana Infrastructure Coalition, Montana Chamber of Commerce

**EXHIBIT(fcs73a02)**

00:23:18 Dan Villa, budget director, Office of Budget and Program Planning

00:24:10 Harold Blattie, executive director, Montana Association of Counties

**EXHIBIT(fcs73a03)**

00:28:57 Shane Gorder, county commissioner, Richland County

[EXHIBIT\(fcs73a04\)](#)

00:31:24 Gordon Oelkers, county commissioner, Richland County

00:32:22 Gary MacDonald, county commissioner, Roosevelt County

00:34:29 Doug Nisbit, president, Montana Association of County Road Supervisors

00:35:02 Cary Hegreberg, executive director, Montana Contractors Association

00:37:47 Erik Sletten, president, Sletten Construction Company

[EXHIBIT\(fcs73a05\)](#)

00:40:08 Marty Schuma, president, Dick Anderson Construction

00:40:57 Tim Burton, executive director, Montana League of Cities and Towns

[EXHIBIT\(fcs73a06\)](#)

00:43:34 Tom Butler, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP)

00:44:00 Spook Stang, Motor Carriers of Montana

00:45:12 Bob Kelly, mayor, City of Great Falls

00:46:09 Doug Russell, city manager, City of Kalispell

00:47:51 Carson Taylor, mayor, City of Bozeman

00:48:50 Ted Barclay, city manager, City of Belgrade

00:50:40 Brett Hamilton, mayor, Town of Philipsburg

00:52:26 John Williams, mayor, City of Colstrip

00:52:47 Brad Longcake, executive director, Montana Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association

00:54:19 Dan Karlin, American Society of Civil Engineers

[EXHIBIT\(fcs73a07\)](#)

00:57:54 Jessica Redfield, city clerk and treasurer, City of Sidney

[EXHIBIT\(fcs73a08\)](#)

00:58:56 Hal Fuglevand, MDU Resources and Knife River Corporation

00:59:47 Jason Rittal, Fallon County and for Bob Gilbert, City of Colstrip and City of Glendive, and Jon Metropoulos, Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties

01:00:07 Steve Gross, business manager, Operating Engineers Local 400 Montana

01:00:32 Jay Skoog, executive director, American Council of Engineering Companies of Montana

[EXHIBIT\(fcs73a09\)](#)

01:01:00 Chris Cavazos, AFL-CIO

01:01:25 Don McCammon, HDR Engineering

[EXHIBIT\(fcs73a10\)](#)

01:02:39 Brent Campbell, WGM Group

[EXHIBIT\(fcs73a11\)](#)

01:04:40 Bill Lloyd, Great Western Engineering

[EXHIBIT\(fcs73a12\)](#)

01:04:57 Alan Erickson, Morrison-Maierle, Inc.

[EXHIBIT\(fcs73a13\)](#)

01:05:17 Randall Camp, City of Helena

01:05:37 John McDonald, City of Missoula

01:05:54 Cyndy Andrus, deputy mayor, City of Bozeman

01:06:15 Aidan Myhre, Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

01:06:31 Ed Bartlett, City of Billings, Bozeman Chamber of Commerce, Billings Chamber of Commerce

01:06:53 Rep. Scott Staffanson, HD 37

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:07:54 Brent Mead, Montana Policy Institute

01:11:31 Sen. Dee Brown, SD 2

01:13:52 Sen. Dave Howard, SD 29

**Informational Testimony:**

01:16:42 Terry Johnson, Montana Infrastructure Coalition

01:17:31 Larry Flynn, Department of Transportation (MDT)

[EXHIBIT\(fcs73a14\)](#)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:22:42 Sen. Olszewski

01:23:15 Mr. Flynn, MDT

01:24:04 Sen. Olszewski

01:24:36 Mr. Flynn

01:25:12 Sen. Kary

01:25:32 Mr. Butler, MHP

01:26:00 Sen. Phillips

01:26:45 Mr. Taylor, Bozeman

01:27:32 Sen. Phillips

01:27:38 Mr. Taylor

01:28:00 Sen. Keenan

01:28:25 Rep. Garner

01:29:04 Sen. Keenan

01:29:15 Rep. Garner

01:30:19 Sen. Keenan

01:30:51 Rep. Garner

01:31:35 Sen. Whitford

01:32:55 Mr. Flynn

01:34:32 Sen. Whitford

01:34:52 Mr. Flynn

01:35:33 Mr. Butler

01:35:44 Sen. Whitford

01:35:59 Mr. Butler

01:36:24 Sen. Whitford

01:36:42 Mr. Flynn

01:37:09 Sen. Whitford  
01:37:20 Mr. Flynn  
01:37:24 Sen. Whitford  
01:38:09 Mr. Blattie, MACo  
01:40:12 Sen. Whitford  
01:40:38 Mr. Blattie  
01:41:03 Sen. Whitford  
01:41:20 Sen. Lang  
01:41:45 Mr. Flynn  
01:42:21 Sen. Lang  
01:42:26 Mr. Flynn  
01:42:49 Sen. Lang  
01:43:23 Rep. Garner  
01:44:59 Sen. Lang  
01:45:28 Rep. Garner  
01:46:42 Sen. Ankney  
01:47:12 Rep. Garner  
01:47:36 Sen. Ankney  
01:47:42 Rep. Garner  
01:47:47 Sen. Moore  
01:48:07 Rep. Garner  
01:48:10 Sen. Moore  
01:48:19 Sen. Whitford  
01:48:28 Rep. Garner  
01:48:35 Sen. Whitford  
01:48:37 Rep. Garner  
01:49:38 Sen. Wolken  
01:50:26 Rep. Garner  
01:51:18 Sen. Keenan  
01:52:03 Rep. Garner  
01:52:57 Sen. Keenan  
01:53:41 Rep. Garner  
01:54:41 Sen. Gauthier  
01:55:03 Rep. Garner  
01:56:11 Sen. Gauthier  
01:56:17 Rep. Garner  
01:56:33 Sen. Lang  
01:57:20 Mr. James, MTIN  
01:58:08 Sen. Lang  
01:58:29 Mr. James  
01:59:01 Sen. Sesso  
01:59:47 Mr. Flynn  
02:03:22 Sen. Sesso  
02:03:39 Mr. Flynn  
02:03:56 Sen. Sesso  
02:04:41 Mr. Blattie  
02:07:05 Sen. Sesso  
02:07:46 Mr. Blattie  
02:08:39 Sen. Keenan  
02:09:24 Mr. Blattie

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:09:46 Rep. Garner

[EXHIBIT\(fcs73a15\)](#)

Chair Jones left the meeting, and Sen. Moore assumed the duties of Chair.

**HEARING ON HB 618**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

02:16:12 Rep. Nancy Ballance (R), HD 87, opened the hearing on HB 618, Increase nursing home bed tax for nursing home rate increases.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

02:20:15 Rose Hughes, Montana Health Care Association (MHCA)

[EXHIBIT\(fcs73a16\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(fcs73a17\)](#)

02:27:25 Bob Olsen, Montana Hospital Association

02:29:35 Sen. Smith joined the meeting.

02:31:45 Melissa Lewis, Welcov Healthcare

02:32:40 Jessie Luther, Benefis Health System

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

02:33:39 Mary Dalton, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:33:58 Sen. Olszewski

02:34:34 Ms. Dalton, DPHHS

02:34:45 Sen. Olszewski

02:34:59 Ms. Dalton

02:35:22 Sen. Keenan

02:35:59 Ms. Hughes, MHCA

02:39:33 Sen. Keenan

02:39:41 Ms. Hughes

02:40:18 Sen. Caferro

02:42:14 Ms. Lewis, Welcov

02:42:33 Sen. Caferro

02:44:04 Ms. Dalton

02:44:22 Sen. Caferro

02:46:13 Rep. Ballance

02:52:39 Sen. Caferro

02:52:57 Rep. Ballance

02:53:11 Sen. Sesso

02:54:09 Rep. Ballance  
 02:56:56 Sen. Sesso  
 02:58:33 Rep. Ballance  
 03:00:04 Sen. Sesso  
 03:00:31 Ms. Dalton  
 03:01:45 Sen. Lang  
 03:02:31 Ms. Dalton  
 03:04:07 Sen. Lang  
 03:04:12 Ms. Dalton

**Closing by Sponsor:**

03:05:05 Rep. Ballance

**HEARING ON HB 652**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

03:06:07 Rep. Rob Cook (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 652, Provide for health care and insurance coverage laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

03:07:10 Kris Hansen, Office of the Montana State Auditor, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance (CSI)

**EXHIBIT(fcs73a18)**

03:17:11 Frank Cote, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana (BCBSMT)  
 03:18:35 Jennifer Hensley, Pacific Source Health Plan

**Opponents' Testimony:**

03:19:18 Amanda Harrow, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)  
 03:21:42 Stacey Anderson, Montana Primary Care Association  
 03:24:05 Dennis Nyland, mental health ombudsman, Board of Nurses  
 03:26:02 Claudia Clifford, AARP Montana  
 03:27:13 Kim Gillan, representing herself

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

03:30:43 Sen. Olszewski  
 03:31:42 Ms. Gillan, self  
 03:32:57 Sen. Olszewski  
 03:33:26 Ms. Gillan  
 03:34:12 Sen. Olszewski  
 03:34:28 Sen. Whitford  
 03:35:03 Ms. Hansen, CSI  
 03:35:22 Sen. Whitford

03:36:09 Ms. Harrow  
03:41:45 Sen. Whitford  
03:41:53 Ms. Harrow  
03:42:44 Sen. Whitford  
03:42:53 Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)  
03:43:11 Sen. Olszewski  
03:43:33 Ms. Harrow  
03:45:45 Sen. Olszewski  
03:46:14 Ms. Harrow  
03:46:49 Sen. McNally  
03:47:16 Ms. Hansen  
03:50:15 Sen. McNally  
03:50:38 Ms. Hansen  
03:51:17 Sen. Smith  
03:52:07 Mr. Cote, BCBSMT  
03:57:10 Sen. Smith  
03:57:29 Mr. Cote  
03:57:57 Sen. Caferro  
04:00:42 Ms. Hansen  
04:04:02 Sen. Caferro  
04:04:07 Ms. Hansen  
04:04:22 Sen. Whitford  
04:04:55 Ms. Hansen  
04:05:37 Sen. Whitford  
04:05:39 Ms. Hansen  
04:06:06 Sen. Whitford  
04:06:15 Ms. Hansen

**Closing by Sponsor:**

04:06:21 Rep. Cook

**HEARING ON HB 591**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

04:07:14 Rep. Zach Brown (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on HB 591, Provide for student loan refinancing.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

04:13:02 David Ewer, Board of Investments (BOI)  
04:13:30 Sen. Jones joined the meeting.  
04:15:15 Eric Feaver, MEA-MFT  
04:15:46 Andy Bixler, Montana Associated Students  
04:16:15 Katy Westhoff, Montana Public Interest Research Group

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

04:16:58 Chair Moore  
04:17:09 Mr. Ewer, BOI  
04:17:46 Chair Moore  
04:17:55 Mr. Ewer  
04:18:28 Sen. Moore

**Closing by Sponsor:**

04:19:16 Rep. Brown

**HEARING ON SB 370**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

04:21:48 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 370, Provide for enhanced driver's license.

Sen. Jones assumed the duties of Chair.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

04:23:13 Sarah Garcia, Motor Vehicle Division, Department of Justice

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

04:23:33 Chair Jones  
04:23:45 Sen. Fitzpatrick

**Closing by Sponsor:**

04:24:13 Sen. Fitzpatrick

04:24:15 Chair Jones

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 12:25 PM

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Prudence Gildroy, Secretary

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**Additional Documents**

Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([fcs73aad.pdf](#))**